Reasons for imbalance in the number of boys and girls

†2493. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th February, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the statistics presented by him says that the number of foeticides in the country is less than even 100;

(b) if so, the reasons for so much imbalance in the number of boys and girls taking birth; and

(c) the details of mechanism adopted to collect the number of the foeticide cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) as per the information available from the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of foeticide reported by different States/ Union Territories during 1994 and 2004 were in the range of 35 to 86.

(b) Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, practice of dowry, male bias in enumeration of population etc. Easy availability of the sex determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process.

(c) The data on foeticide are collected by the National Crimes Record Bureau on monthly and annual basis in the prescribed proforma from the State Crime Records Bureau of all States and UTs. On Monthly basis only the cases of foeticide reported are collected whereas on annual basis comprehensive information about cases of foeticide reported, charge-sheeted, trial completed, convinced and cases pending trial are collected.

Supreme Court directions on two child norm

2494. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any notice from the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding implementation of two child norm for containing population growth in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.